

COUNCIL MEETING August 5, 2022 — MINUTES

Council Members Present

Mary Durham, Chair
Erica Brown,
HHSC/Medicaid
Ronnie Browning
Debbie Carlisle
Bill Coorsh
Gladys Cortez
Kyle Cox
Maverick Crawford, III
Andrew Crim
Sean Jackson, DRTX
Juan Carlos Lopez
Scott McAvoy
Meagan Orsag,
A&M-CDD
Angie Panzica
Michael Peace
Holly Riley, HHSC/Older
Americans Act
Robert Schier, III
Eric Shahid
Meridith Silcox
Lora Taylor
Jamie Thomas

Kim Torres
Audrey Young,
DSHS/Maternal Child
Health
Nina Zuna, TCDS

Council Members Absent

Sara Kendall, TWC
Amanda Miles
Justin Porter, TEA

Guests Present

Floyd Browning
Austin Carlisle
Kristen Cox
Ivy Goldstein,
DSHS/Maternal Child
Health
Amy Litzinger
Laura Marquez
Marie Richter
Allison Schaberg

Regional Coordinators

Present

Morgan Bradley
Erin Fogarty
Rosa Guel
Canen Melton
Skyler Mueller

Staff Present

Beth Stalvey,
Executive Director
Kai Brewer
Scott Daigle
Lauren Gerken
Sabrina Gonzalez
Genessee Klemm
Linda Logan
Sylvia Medina
Evan Marczynski
Mary Rochford
Richard Rendon
Melanie Teague
Brianna TenBrink
Reynaldo Valldejuli

Call to Order

The Texas Council for Developmental convened on Friday, August 5, 2022, at the Embassy Suites Austin Central, 5901 North IH 35, Austin, TX 78723 as well as virtually using the Zoom platform. Council Chair Mary Durham called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m. A quorum was present.

1. Introductions

Council members, staff and guests were introduced.

2. Public Comments

No public comments were offered to the Council.

3. **Consent Items**

Chair Durham reviewed consent items including the minutes from the May 5, 2022, Committee of the Whole meeting and the May 6, 2022, Council meeting as well as the excused absences of Amanda Miles, TEA representative Justin Porter, TWC alternate representative Sara Kendall (noting retirement of TWC representative Jennifer Hines).

MOTION: To approve the minutes of the May 5, 2022, Committee of the Whole meeting and May 6, 2022, Council meeting and the excused absences of Amanda Miles, Justin Porter, and Sara Kendall.

MADE BY: Robert Schier, III

SECOND: Jamie Thomas

The motion **passed** unanimously. (August 2022 Meeting Materials, Tab 16)

4. **Chair and Executive Director's Report**

Chair Durham reported that the Executive Committee conducted the annual evaluation of TCDD Executive Director Beth Stalvey who received a very positive performance appraisal.

Executive Director Stalvey reported on stipends offered by the Council to note that Events Stipends for Consumers was re-opened (following closure for the COVID-19 pandemic) in July. Four stipends were awarded during the quarter.

Stalvey provided staff updates to include the resignation of Tessie Ajala as Grants Management Director and the selection of Brianna TenBrink as Leadership and Advocacy Training Program Manager. She also reported on the selection of Canen Melton as the Texas A&M AgriLife Regional Coordinator for the East Texas region. Stalvey noted that funds were received from the Administration on Community Living to expand the Public Health Workforce. TCDD has allocated these funds for a Public Health and Disability Integration Specialist, a temporary 19th staff position at TCDD that will end on or before September 2024. Crystal Goodwin has been selected for this position and will begin on August 15, 2022

Stalvey reported on activities funded through Centers for Disease Control and Prevention funds including the establishment of peer ambassador teams for community outreach, vaccine clinics, and the development of videos and fact sheet related to vaccines.

5. **FY 2023 Operating Expense Budget**

Chair Durham invited TCDD Budget and Finance Director Rey Valldejuli to present the proposed Operating Expense Budget for FY 2023. Valldejuli discussed details of the proposed budget in the amount of \$2,445,245. He noted this is an increase of \$96,142 from FY 2022 which is due to projected increases in conferences and events, travel, and technology purchases.

MOTION: To approve the FY 2023 Operating Expense Budget in the amount of \$2,445,245.

MADE BY: Mary Durham for the Executive Committee (motions from Committee do not need a second.)

The motion **passed** unanimously. (August 2022 Meeting Materials, Tab 3)

6. **Future Activities for State Plan Implementation**

Project Development Committee Chair Gladys Cortez reported on Committee discussion of new state plan project executive summaries and Future Funding Priorities List.

She first discussed the executive summary for Coping with Grief and Loss. This project would develop and distribute educational and support resources that provide DD-specific information on coping with grief and loss to at least 50 individuals per year.

MOTION: To approve funding of up to \$125,000 per year, for up to five years, for one Coping with Grief and Loss project.

MADE BY: Gladys Cortez for the Project Development Committee

The motion **passed** unanimously. (August 2022 Meeting Materials, Tab 10)

Cortez next discussed the executive summary for Adults with IDD Supporting Aging Family Members. This project would develop educational resources to support at least 50 people with IDD to fully participate in the care of parents and family caregivers who are aging.

MOTION: To approve funding of up to \$125,000 per year, for up to five years, for one Adults with IDD Supporting Aging Family Members project.

MADE BY: Gladys Cortez for the Project Development Committee

The motion **passed** unanimously. (August 2022 Meeting Materials, Tab 10)

Cortez then reported on Committee discussion of the Future Project Funding Priorities list.

MOTION: To approve the Future Funding Priorities List as follows:

- 1) Culturally Competent Family Supports
- 2) Prevention and Response to Sexual Offenses – Medical and Therapeutic Professionals
- 3) Prevention and Response to Sexual Offenses – Criminal Justice Response to Cases Involving People with I/DD
- 4) Coping with Grief and Loss
- 5) Adults with IDD Supporting Aging Family Members

MADE BY: Gladys Cortez for the Project Development Committee

The motion **passed** unanimously. (August 2022 Meeting Materials, Tab 11)

7. TCDD Position Statements

Public Policy Committee Chair Lora Taylor reviewed the workgroup recommendations and Committee discussion for revisions to the TCDD Position Statements as presented in Council meeting materials.

MOTION: To accept revisions to the TCDD Position Statements.

MADE BY: Lora Taylor for the Public Policy Committee

The motion **passed** unanimously. (August 2022 Meeting Materials, Tab 13)

8. Internal Audit Contract Awards for FY 2023 – FY 2025

Audit Committee Chair Kim Torres reported on Committee discussion of the response to the Request for Qualifications received from current internal audit contractor Weaver and Tidwell. Council Policies and Procedures limit an internal audit contractor to ten years so the contract will conclude at the end of FY 2025.

MOTION: To approve the contract with Weaver and Tidwell for internal audit contract services for FY 2023 – FY 2025.

MADE BY: Kim Torres for the Audit Committee

The motion **passed** unanimously.

9. Agency Reports

The Committee received updates from Sean Jackson, Disability Rights Texas; Erica Brown, HHSC/Medicaid programs, Audrey Young, DSHS/Maternal Child Health; Holly Riley of HHSC/Older Americans Act programs; Nina Zuna of Texas Center for Disability Studies; and Meagan Orsag, Texas Center on Disability and Development.

10. Presentation: Texas ABLE

TCDD Director of Community Engagement Genessee Klemm introduced Allison Schaberg, owner of Consolidated Planning Group, a holistic financial planning firm that provides advice, analysis, education, and financial planning services for families and small businesses. She is parent of two adult children with disabilities and a 2021 Partners in Policymaking graduate. Schaberg shared her professional and personal experiences using ABLE accounts which allow an individual with a disability to save funds that exceed the typical limits for Medicaid and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) eligibility.

TCDD Public Policy Director Scott Daigle introduced Linda Fernandez, Director of the Educational Opportunities and Investment Division at the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts (CPA) Office. Fernandez provided information on the Texas Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) which is managed through her division of the CPA office. She noted that prior to ABLE, individuals receiving SSI could only have assets of \$2,000. An individual may have up to \$100,000 in an ABLE account (plus up to \$2,000 in other accounts) and still retain SSI benefits. Distributions from ABLE accounts are tax-free if used to pay qualified disability expenses. Fernandez discussed eligibility

requirements as well as how to enroll and manage an ABLE account. She also discussed qualified disability expenses as well as how ABLE and Special Needs Trust accounts work together.

11. **Executive Committee Report**

Chair Durham reported Executive Committee consideration of Health Equity for People with Developmental Disabilities projects. The Council previously approved funding of up to \$150,000 per year, for up to five years, for up to three projects. The Committee considered five applications and would like to award funding to four of those applications and is therefore bringing a request to the Council for funding for one additional project.

MOTION: To approve funding of one additional Health Equity for People with Developmental Disabilities at \$150,000 per year for up to five years.

MADE BY: Mary Durham for the Executive Committee

The motion **passed** unanimously.

Durham then reported new grant funding awards for seven projects including four Health Equity for People with Developmental Disabilities, two Leadership and Advocacy Training Led by Self-Advocates, and one Leadership and Advocacy Training for Youth Self-Advocates. She also reported the approval of continuation grant funding for two projects.

Executive Director Stalvey discussed the Grants Monitoring Report and Risk Assessment Report, noting the Committee had no concerns.

TCDD Director of Budget and Finance Valldejuli reviewed the Summary of Funds for FY 2020 – FY 2022 as well as projections for FY 2023 – 2024. Valldejuli clarified the operating expenses and total grant expenses showing amounts obligated for each year as well as funds available for new grant projects. He noted that TCDD has received a one-year, no-cost extension for FY 2021 funds.

Stalvey reported on the review of member and staff conflict of interest disclosure reports and noted the Committee had no concerns. She reminded members to disclose any affiliations with other organizations.

12. **Project Development Committee Report**

Project Development Committee Chair Cortez reported the presentation from Texas Technology Access Program staff on “Increasing Independence with Assistive Technology”. She noted that this led to discussion on potential future projects.

13. **Public Policy Committee Report**

Public Policy Committee Chair Taylor reported on discussions of member activities and a presentation on Guardianship from Committee member and Disability Rights Texas representative Sean Jackson. The Committee also discussed plans for advocacy efforts during the 88th Texas Legislature.

14. Audit Committee Report

Audit Committee Chair Torres reported that internal audit activities will be conducted during August and that the Annual Internal Audit Report will be presented for Council approval at the November meeting.

15. Future Agenda Items

Council members were encouraged to contact Chair Durham or Executive Director Stalvey with suggestions for future agenda items.

16. Announcements and Updates

Council members discussed dates of future meetings of November 2-4, 2022, February 8-10, 2023, May 3-5, 2023, and August 2-4, 2023.

Adjourn

Chair Durham adjourned the meeting at 12:20 p.m.

Beth Stalvey, Secretary to the Council Date